



December 4, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your efforts in this historic redrawing of Los Angeles County's supervisorial district lines. I write to ask that you support [modified Map F-1 \(OP 081\) submitted by the People's Bloc](#), a multiracial table dedicated to the inclusion of everyday residents in the redistricting process and to equitable representation for historically underrepresented groups.

I am the Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), a coalition of over forty community-based organizations serving and representing the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in Los Angeles County. A3PCON is dedicated to improving the lives of AAPIs through civic engagement, capacity building, and policy advocacy. I am also one of the co-founders of Stop AAPI Hate, a nationwide coalition to address hate against AAPIs.

As a member of the People's Bloc, A3PCON has worked to engage everyday residents in redistricting. A3PCON has held workshops and trainings that educate and inform AAPI community members about what redistricting is and why it matters, collected information on our communities of interest across LA County, and helped AAPIs share their stories and maps with redistricting coalitions.

The submission by the People's Bloc reflects and respects the voices of AAPI community members and their communities of interest across LA County. Modified Map F-1 (OP 081) keeps AAPI communities of interest in the City of Los Angeles — Koreatown, Historic Filipinotown, Thai Town, Little Tokyo, and Chinatown — whole and in the same districts as communities with shared interests and concerns. It keeps Inglewood, Lennox, and Hawthorne together, which are home to a concentration of Tongan community members. It unites AAPI communities in the West San Gabriel Valley by bringing Temple City and Arcadia into Supervisorial District 1 alongside Alhambra, Monterey Park, and Rosemead. It also unites AAPI communities in the East San Gabriel Valley — Walnut, Diamond Bar, Hacienda Heights, and Rowland Heights — in Supervisorial District 4. Overall, this is something no other map being considered by the Commission accomplishes.

In addition to respecting AAPI communities of interest, modified Map F-1 (OP 081) is the only map that does not dilute the voices of the Black and Latinx communities with whom we stand in solidarity. It creates three districts where communities of color can elect a candidate of choice,

reflecting the demographics of LA County. It draws a district, Supervisorial District 2, with the highest percentage of Black CVAP, respecting the Black community of interest in South LA.

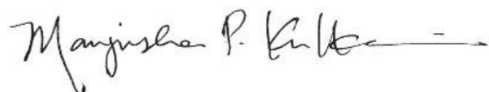
By contrast, Map B-2 divides many AAPI communities of interest, packs Black and Brown communities into Supervisorial District 2, and creates three districts with the highest white CVAP. This is concerning given the demographics of LA County, where the white population only makes up 30% of the county.

Meanwhile, Map G would dilute the representation of the Black community of interest in South LA and other communities of color by pairing them with affluent coastal communities who do not share the same experiences, concerns, or priorities. Affordability is a grave challenge in places where a significant percentage of residents live under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, such as Watts (74.4%), Compton (55.6%), Koreatown (48.7%), Hawthorne (46.9%), Hyde Park (42.5%), and Inglewood (38.6%). Residents across the 405 experience a very different economic reality; 8.2% of Manhattan Beach residents live below 200% of the FPL, a figure mirrored in other coastal cities like Rolling Hills Estates (8.5%), Palos Verdes Estates (9.7%), Hermosa Beach (10.3%), Rancho Palos Verdes (10.4%), and Redondo Beach (11.4%).

These differences go beyond income. In the midst of the pandemic, the average number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents was as much as [four to five times higher in historic Supervisorial District 2 cities east of the 405 than in neighboring coastal cities](#), highlighting health and economic factors leading to very different lived experiences. Disparities in home ownership, denied mortgage applications, subprime mortgage rates, uninsurance, drinking water contaminants, and [voter turnout](#) are also stark when comparing [communities east of the 405](#) to [communities on the coast](#).

This Commission is making history as the first independent commission to draw district lines for the County. I urge the Commission to draw lines that reflect and respect the diversity of the county, the voices of everyday residents, and the communities of interest of those who have been historically underrepresented and disenfranchised. Modified Map F-1 (OP 081) submitted by the People's Bloc best accomplishes these goals.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Manjusha P. Kulkarni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Manjusha Kulkarni